



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Rochester area man faces federal child pornography charges

Suspect persuaded young girls to send him sexual photos over the Internet

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—Special agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today arrested a Mount Morris man for possession of child pornography. Stephen Forshee is expected to have his initial appearance before a federal magistrate judge in the Western District of New York today.

According to the criminal complaint filed this afternoon Forshee convinced teenaged girls to send him nude and partially nude photos and then sent those images to other girls. One of the victims in the case approached the Livingston County Sheriff's Office to say that she received sexually explicit images over the Internet from Forshee. She told deputies that she recognized two of the young girls depicted in the images.

An ICE special agent who specializes in the investigation of child pornography and exploitation worked with the sheriff's department to recover additional child pornography images from Forshee's computer. Based on the computer evidence and the sheriff's office interviews with the victims, Forshee has been charged with sending, receiving and possessing child pornography, violations of Title 18 United States Code, Section 2252.

"This suspect was preying on teenaged girls over the Internet, and anyone who reads the criminal complaint will be sickened by the depravity involved in this crime. Sexual predators such as this are a blight on our society and we will work relentlessly to bring them to justice," said Peter J. Smith, special agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Buffalo.

Smith credited the Livingston County Sheriff's Office for doing outstanding investigative work in the case. It is an example of how local law enforcement develops significant cases that can then be prosecuted federally.

Smith also said this case is a perfect example of why ICE places such a priority on Operation Predator, a nationwide initiative to protect children from criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, Internet child pornographers and human traffickers.

Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 7,000 individuals nationwide, including more than 460 in New York.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by skilled law enforcement specialists.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.